

must hold a security position no lower than on the refinanced loan.

(2) Any chattel-secured guaranteed loan must have a higher lien priority (including purchase money interest) than an unguaranteed loan secured by the same chattels and held by the same lender.

(3) Junior lien positions are acceptable only if the equity position is strong. Junior liens on crops, or live-stock products will not be relied upon for security unless the lender is involved in multiple guaranteed loans to the same borrower and also has the first lien on the collateral.

(4) When taking a junior lien, prior lien instruments will not contain future advance clauses (except for taxes, insurance, or other reasonable costs to protect security), or cancellation, summary forfeiture, or other clauses that jeopardize the Government's or the lender's interest or the borrower's ability to pay the guaranteed loan, unless any such undesirable provisions are limited, modified, waived or subordinated by the lienholder for the benefit of the Agency and the lender.

(f) Additional security, or any loan of \$10,000 or less may be secured by the best lien obtainable on real estate without title clearance or legal services normally required, provided the lender believes from a search of the county records that the loan applicant can give a mortgage on the farm and provided that the lender would, in the normal course of business, waive the title search. This exception to title clearance will not apply when land is to be purchased.

(g) *Multiple owners.* If security has multiple owners, all owners must execute the security documents for the loan.

(h) *Exceptions.* The Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs has the authority to grant an exception to any of the requirements involving security, if the proposed change is in the best interest of the Government and the collection of the loan will not be impaired.

§ 762.127 Appraisal requirements.

(a) *General.* The Agency may require a lender to obtain an appraisal based on the type of security, loan size, and

whether it is primary or additional security. Except for authorized liquidation expenses, the lender is responsible for all appraisal costs, which may be passed on to the borrower, or a transferee in the case of a transfer and assumption.

(b) *Exception.* Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, an appraisal is not required for any additional security, or for loans of \$50,000 or less if a strong equity position exists.

(c) *Chattel appraisals.* A current appraisal (not more than 12 months old) of primary chattel security is generally required on all loans. An appraisal for loans or lines of credit for annual production purposes that are secured by crops is only required when a guarantee is requested late in the current production year and actual yields can be reasonably estimated. The appraised value of chattel property will be based on public sales of the same, or similar, property in the market area. In the absence of such public sales, reputable publications reflecting market values may be used. Appraisal reports may be on the Agency's appraisal of chattel property form or on any other appraisal form containing at least the same information. Chattel appraisals will be performed by appraisers who possess sufficient experience or training to establish market (not retail) values as determined by the Agency.

(d) *Real estate appraisals.* A current real estate appraisal is required when real estate will be primary security. Agency officials may accept an appraisal that is not current if there have been no significant changes in the market or on the subject real estate and the appraisal was either completed within the past 12 months or updated by a qualified appraisal if not completed within the past 12 months.

(1) *Appraiser qualifications.* On loan transactions of \$250,000 or less, the lender must demonstrate to the Agency's satisfaction that the appraiser possesses sufficient experience or training to estimate the market value of agricultural property. On loan transactions greater than \$250,000, which includes principal plus accrued interest through the closing date, the appraisal must be completed by a State certified general appraiser.

(2) Appraisals. Real estate appraisals must be completed in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. Appraisals may be either a complete or limited appraisal provided in a self-contained or summary format. Restricted reports, as defined in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, are not acceptable.

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§ 762.128 Environmental and special laws.

(a) *Environmental requirements.* The requirements found in part 1940, subpart G, of this title must be met for guaranteed OL and FO. CLP and PLP lenders may certify that they have documentation in their file to demonstrate compliance with paragraph (c) of this section. Standard eligible lenders must submit evidence supporting compliance with this section.

(b) *Determination.* The Agency determination of whether an environmental problem exists will be based on:

(1) The information supplied with the application;

(2) The Agency Official's personal knowledge of the operation;

(3) Environmental resources available to the Agency including, but not limited to, documents, third parties, and governmental agencies;

(4) A visit to the farm operation when the available information is insufficient to make a determination;

(5) Other information supplied by the lender or loan applicant upon Agency request. If necessary, information not supplied with the application will be requested by the Agency.

(c) *Special requirements.* Lenders will assist in the environmental review process by providing environmental information. In all cases, the lender must retain documentation of their investigation in the loan applicant's case file.

(1) A determination must be made as to whether there are any potential impacts to a 100 year floodplain as defined by Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain maps, Natural Resources Conservation Service data, or other appropriate documentation.

(2) The lender will assist the borrower in securing any applicable permits or waste management plans. The lender may consult with the Agency for guidance on activities which require consultation with State regulatory agencies, special permitting or waste management plans.

(3) The lender will examine the security property to determine if there are any structures or archeological sites which are listed or may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The lender may consult with the Agency for guidance on which situations will need further review in accordance with the National Historical Preservation Act and part 1940, subpart G, and part 1901, subpart F, of this title.

(4) The loan applicant must certify they will not violate the provisions of § 363 of the CONACT, the Food Security Act of 1985, and Executive Order 11990 relating to Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands.

(5) All lenders are required to ensure that due diligence is performed in conjunction with a request for guarantee of a loan involving real estate. Due diligence is the process of evaluating real estate in the context of a real estate transaction to determine the presence of contamination from release of hazardous substances, petroleum products, or other environmental hazards and determining what effect, if any, the contamination has on the security value of the property. The Agency will accept as evidence of due diligence the most current version of the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) transaction screen questionnaire available from 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428-2959, or similar documentation, approved for use by the Agency, supplemented as necessary by the ASTM phase I environmental site assessments form.

(d) *Equal opportunity and non-discrimination.* (1) With respect to any aspect of a credit transaction, the lender will not discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age, provided the applicant can execute a legal contract. Nor will the lender discriminate on the basis of